

Remarks/Arguments

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 10-12 are presently active; Claims 4-5 having been previously canceled without prejudice, Claim 9 having been presently canceled without prejudice, Claims 1, 6, and 7 having been amended, and Claims 10-12 having been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the title of the specification was objected to for not being descriptive. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were objected to. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane (U.S. Pat. No. 6,046,884) and Kudo et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,657,186).

Regarding the objection to the title, the title has been amended to be more descriptive. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the title has been overcome.

Regarding the objection to the claims, the claims have been amended to address the informality identified in the outstanding Office Action. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the claims has been overcome.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection, Claim 6 has been amended to more particularly point out the features associated with the interconnecting pattern. Referring by way of example to Applicants Figure 6 and 7, Claim 6 is illustrated by a write/read head supporting mechanism including a slider 2 provided with an electromagnetic transducer element or an optical module, and a suspension 3. The slider 2 is supported on the suspension 3 by a microactuator 4 configured to displace the slider 2. The write/read head supporting mechanism includes an interconnecting pattern (5A and 5B) connected to the slider 2 which has a wire for electrical connection to the electromagnetic transducer element or the optical module, and has a grounding wire for electrical connection

to the slider. The recited wire and grounding wire of the interconnecting pattern include respectively a close-contact wire **5A** in close contact with the suspension **3** and a floating wire **5B** that extends away from the suspension **3** to the slider **2** and is movable and/or deformable in a displacement direction of the slider **2** by the microactuator **4**. With these claim clarifications and the above exemplary illustration, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection has been overcome.

Furthermore, Claims 1, 6, and 7 have been amended to better conform with the standard U.S. claim drafting practice of positively reciting the claimed elements. As such, Claim 1 positively sets forth an electrical connecting member between the ground region and the slider, that is movable and/or deformable in a displacement direction of the slider. Applicants submit that a movable and/or deformable electrical connecting member between the ground region and the slider is a feature not shown in either Crane or Kudo et al.

Crane discloses that:

In one embodiment, distal mounting section 108 is bonded to the top surface of a main body 58a of microactuator structure 58. Main body 58a has a plurality of electrical terminals 119 (shown in phantom), some of which may be electrically coupled to suspension 102 such that suspension 102 acts as a ground plane for the microactuator. The remaining terminals would be coupled to electrical control wires in a known manner. Main body 58a supports slider body 56 through beams 60a and 60b and narrow spring between 60a and 56e and between 60b and 56f.¹

This embodiment of Crane is illustrated in Figures 3A and 3B. These figures show no electrical connection member between the suspension 102 (acting as the ground plane) and the slider 61 that is deformable or movable in a direction of the slider movement. Rather, the electrical terminals 119 in Crane are likely to be similar to the configuration disclosed and shown in Kudo et al.

Kudo et al disclose that:

¹ Crane, col. 6, lines 22-32.

The magnetic head slider 76 is bonded by means of an adhesive (not shown) on the upper surface of the flexible wiring substrate 32 which is formed on the gimbal 31 of the suspension 30. The signal terminals 78a to 78d of the slider 76 are connected to the signal electrodes 33a to 33d on the wiring substrate 32 by means of lead wires 79, respectively. A side surface 76b of the slider 76 is electrically connected to the grounding electrode 35 on the wiring substrate 32 by means of conductive resin 80 constituted by, for example, silver paste or carbon resin. Thus, the slider 76 is grounded via the conductive resin 80, the grounding electrode 35, and the suspension 30.²

This embodiment of Kudo et al is illustrated in Figure 7. This figure shows the conductive resin 80 abutting the grounding electrode 35 with the grounding electrode 35 lying rigidly on wiring substrate 32. The electrical connecting member in Kudo et al (i.e., the conductive resin 80) is not deformable or movable in a direction of the slider movement.

M.P.E.P. § 2143 requires for a *prima facie* case of obviousness that the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

With no disclosure or suggestion of the above-noted feature, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom patentably define over the applied prior art.

Regarding independent Claims 6 and 7, Claim 6 defines a grounded floating wire that is movable and/or deformable in a displacement direction of the slider. Claim 7 defines a ground wire of a flexible region of the leading end portion of an interconnecting pattern that is movable and/or deformable in a displacement direction of the slider. Thus, for similar reasons as in Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 6 and 7, and Claim 8 dependent from Claim 6, patentably define over the applied prior art.

New Claim 10 is a combination of pending Claim 1 and former Claim 9. New Claim 11 is a combination of pending Claim 6 and former Claim 9. New Claim 12 is a combination of pending Claim 7 and former Claim 9. Thus, for reasons that pending Claims 1, 6, and 7

² Kudo et al, col. 5, lines 53-64.

Application No. 10/631,860
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2004

patentably define over the applied prior art, new Claims 10-12 patentably define over the art of record.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

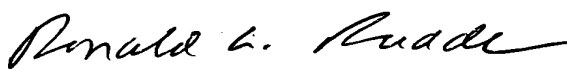
Respectfully submitted,

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